A. A method of decreasing mortality caused by congestive heart failure in a patient in need of such decrease, said method comprising:

administering to said patient first dosages at least daily for a period of from 7 to 28 days, said first dosages each comprising carvedilol,

then administering to said patient second dosages at least daily for a period of from 7 to 28 days, said second dosages each carvedilol, and

then administering to said patient third dosages daily for a maintenance period, said third dosages each comprising carvedilol, said third dosages each comprising a daily maintenance dose in the range of from about 10 mg to about 100 mg of carvedilol,

said first dosages each comprising carvedilol in an amount which his 10-30% of said daily maintenance dose,

said second dosages each comprising carvedilol in an amount which is 20-70% of said daily maintenance dose.

B. A method of decreasing mortality caused by congestive heart failure in a patient, said method comprising administering to said patient first dosages once or twice daily, for a period of from 7 to 28 days, said first dosages each comprising carvedilol in an amount of about 3.125 mg or 6.25 mg,

then administering to said patient second dosages once or twice daily, for a period of from 7 to 28 days, said second dosages each comprising carvedilol in an amount of about 12.5 mg, and then administering to said patient maintenance third dosages once or twice daily, said third dosages each comprising carvedilol in an amount of about 25.0 mg or about 50.0 mg.

C. A method of treating decrease mortality resulting from congestive heart failure in a patient in need of such treatment, said method comprising administering to said patient carvedilol, alone or in combination with at least one other therapeutic agent, in unit dosages once or twice daily, for a period of from 7 to 28 days, said unit dosages each comprising a pharmaceutical formulation comprising carvedilol in an amount of about 3.125 mg or about 6.25 mg.

D. A method as recited in claim B, wherein at least one of said first, second and maintenance dosages further comprise at least one other therapeutic agent selected from the group consisting of an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor, a diuretic and a cardiac glycoside.